

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner
 US Department of Commerce
 United States Patent and Trademark
 Office, PCT
 2011 South Clark Place Room
 CP2/5C24
 Arlington, VA 22202
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
 in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 31 July 2001 (31.07.01)	Applicant's or agent's file reference 723-938
International application No. PCT/US00/41057	Priority date (day/month/year) 14 October 1999 (14.10.99)
International filing date (day/month/year) 04 October 2000 (04.10.00)	
Applicant KOON, David, G.	

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1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
 03 May 2001 (03.05.01)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was
☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer Olivia TEFY
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

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REC'D 19 SEP 2001

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 723-938		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US00/41057	International filing date (day/month/year) 04 October 2000 (04.10.2000)	Priority date (day/month/year) 14 October 1999 (14.10.1999)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): G06F 17/30 and US Cl.: 705/16,20,21			
Applicant NINTENDO OF AMERICA, INC			
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of <u>0</u> sheets.</p>			
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>			
Date of submission of the demand 03 May 2001 (03.05.2001)		Date of completion of this report 23 June 2001 (23.06.2001)	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230		Authorized officer Hyung S. Sough <i>Peggy Hamed</i> Telephone No. 703-308-0956	

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:***

- ☒ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description:
pages 1-17 as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the claims:
pages 18-22, as originally filed
pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the drawings:
pages 1, as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages NONE, as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☒ the description, pages NONE
- ☒ the claims, Nos. NONE
- ☒ the drawings, sheets/~~fig~~ NONE

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. STATEMENT**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-22</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>1-22</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-22</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-22 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a method or a system which uses a serial number mask including at least a first character that describes variables of the serial number format. Further, the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.

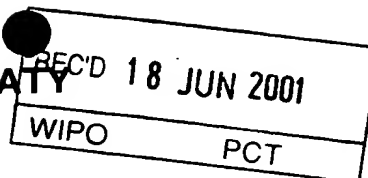
----- NEW CITATIONS -----

09/914529 (0500)

14

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 7466/MH	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US00/05196	International filing date (day/month/year) 01/03/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 05/03/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61K31/00		
Applicant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 9 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☒ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 07/09/2000	Date of completion of this report 15.06.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized officer Hoff, P Telephone No. +31 70 340 3520 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/05196

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-13 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-22 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/05196

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- ☐ the entire international application.
- ☒ claims Nos. 1-22.

because:

- ☒ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. 1-11,16,17,19-22 with respect to industrial applicability relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):
see separate sheet
 - ☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 1-11,16,17,19-22 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
see separate sheet
 - ☒ the claims, or said claims Nos. 1-11,16,17,19-22 are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
 - ☒ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 12-15,18.
2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:
- ☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
 - ☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims
	No:	Claims 1-11,16,17,19-22
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims
	No:	Claims 1-11,16,17,19-22

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/05196

Industrial applicability (IA) Yes: Claims see Separate Sheet
 No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations
 see separate sheet

VI. **Certain documents cited**

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

and / or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

see separate sheet

VII. **Certain defects in the international application**

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

VIII. **Certain observations on the international application**

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US00/05196

Re Item III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. No International Preliminary Examination will be carried out in respect of subject-matter which is not covered by the search report (Rule 66.1(e) PCT).
2. Claims 1-11,16,17,19-22 relate to subject-matter considered by this Authority to be covered by the provisions of Rule 67.1(iv) PCT. Consequently, no opinion will be formulated with respect to the industrial applicability of the subject-matter of these claims (Article 34(4)(a)(I) PCT).

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: US 4 621 100 A (LUND JOHN E ET AL) 4 November 1986
- D2: WO 92 21350 A (SEPRACOR INC) 10 December 1992
- D3: US 3 982 016 A (WALSH ALEXANDER H) 21 September 1976
- D4: US 4 812 304 A (ANDERSON COLIN ET AL) 14 March 1989
- D5: WEINREB M ET AL: "The anabolic effect of PGE2 in rat bone marrow cultures is mediated via the EP4 receptor subtype." AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHYSIOLOGY, (1999 FEB) 276 (2 PT 1) E376-83. , XP000952048
- D6: WOODIEL, FLORENCE N. ET AL: "Anabolic effects of prostaglandins in cultured fetal rat calvariae: Structure-activity relations and signal transduction pathway" J. BONE MINER. RES. (1996), 11(9), 1249-1255 , XP000952077

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US00/05196

The Applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that the present opinion expressed as to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability refers only to matter for which an international search report has been drawn up (i.e. to the compounds structurally identified on pages 7-8).

1. The document D1 discloses the use of prostaglandin analogs having the general structure described on pages 7-8 for increasing bone mass and treating bone disorders such as osteoporosis or bone fracture. Examples of such compounds include: 9-deoxy-9-methylene-16,16-dimethyl-PGE₂, PGE₂, and 16,16-dimethyl-PGE₂.

Therefore, in view of D1 the subject-matter of claims 1-11,16,17,19-22 cannot be regarded as being novel and does not meet the requirements of Article 33(2) PCT.

2. Furthermore, the documents D2, D3 and D4 describe prostaglandins of the formula of pages 7-8 for increasing bone volume and treating various bone disorders such as osteoporosis, fractures or osteomalacia. Examples of such prostaglandins include: PGE₂ and 16,16-dimethyl PGE₂ (D2); 16-aryl-13,14-dihydro-PGE₂ p-biphenyl ester (D3) and PGE₂ (D4).

Therefore, the lack of novelty of claims 1-11,16,17,19-22 in sense of Article 33(2) PCT is further emphasized by the disclosure of documents D2 to D4.

3. Moreover, the attention of the Applicant is drawn to the fact that all embodiments covered by the claims should satisfy the criteria of inventive step. When the inventive step is solely based on the achievement of a technical effect, such as the increase of bone volume and the treatment of bone disorders in the present case, substantially all embodiments should exhibit this effect. It must be credible that all the alternatives claimed must be a solution to the problem.

The present invention is based on the discovery of the bone anabolic effect of non-naturally-occurring selective EP1 agonists.

However, the documents D5 and D6 report that EP1 agonists of the general formula of pages 7-8 (17-phenyltrilor-PGE₂ and sulprostone) lack any bone anabolic activity.

This discrepancy between the present invention and the teaching of the prior art leads to a doubt concerning the real bone anabolic effect of EP1 agonists.

Therefore, as the subject-matter of claims 1-11,16,17,19-22 (i.e. all EP1 agonists of the formula of pages 7-8) does not exhibit the particular technical effects (the claimed therapeutic effects) in a credible manner, said subject-matter (as far as novel) cannot involve inventive step.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US00/05196

Re Item VI

Certain documents cited

Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

Application No Patent No	Publication date (day/month/year)	Filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (valid claim) (day/month/year)
WO-A-0051616	08.09.00	01.03.00	05.03.99
WO-A-0021542	20.04.00	12.10.99	15.10.98

The documents WO-A-0051616 which describes a method for increasing bone volume with a non-naturally-occurring EP1 selective agonist (in association with a non-naturally-occurring FP selective agonist) is relevant for novelty for the subject-matter of claims 1-11,16,17,19-22.

The documents WO-A-0021542 which describes a method for stimulating bone formation and treating bone disorders with PGE2 is relevant for novelty for the subject-matter of claims 1-11,16,17,19-22.

The priorities of the conflicting and the pending applications have however not been checked.

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

1. The abbreviation "PTH" (page 1, line 38) is not specified as required under Rule 10.1.(e) PCT.

2. The passages on page 9, lines 35-36 and on page 13, lines 13-16 in the description do not comply with Rule 9.1.(iv) PCT.

3. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art

disclosed in the documents D1 to D4 is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

1. The embodiment of the invention described on pages 7-8 does not fall within the scope of claims 12-15,18. This inconsistency between the claims and the description leads to doubt concerning the matter for which protection is sought, thereby rendering the claims unclear (Article 6 PCT).

2. Present claims 1-11,16,17,19-22 relate to a compound defined by reference to its pharmacological property, namely "non-naturally-occurring selective EP1 agonist". The claims cover all compounds having this characteristic or property, whereas the application provides support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT for only a very limited number of such compounds. Accordingly, the claims lack support, and the application lacks disclosure. Independent of the above reasoning, the claims also lack clarity (Article 6 PCT). An attempt is made to define the compound by reference to its pharmacological profile.

3. The term "prostaglandin analog" used in claim 10 is vague and unclear and leaves in doubt as to the meaning of the technical features (substances) to which it refers, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of said claim unclear (Article 6 PCT).

4. Claims 2 and 3 relate to the use of an EP1 agonist for treating a disease which actually is not well defined. Treatment of "a bone disorder" or "increasing trabecular number" are not clear definitions of diseases rendering thus the scope of the protection of said claims obscure (Article 6 PCT).

It is pointed out that the mechanism of action of a drug (in the present case increasing trabecular number) cannot be considered in itself as a therapeutic application; the discovery that a substance has a particular pharmacological profile still needs to find a practical application in the form of a defined, real treatment of a pathological condition.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US00/05196

5. The features of claim 16 (osteoarthritis and Paget's disease) are not referred to in the description. Claim 16 is therefore not supported by the description as required by Article 6 PCT.

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
19 April 2001 (19.04.2001)

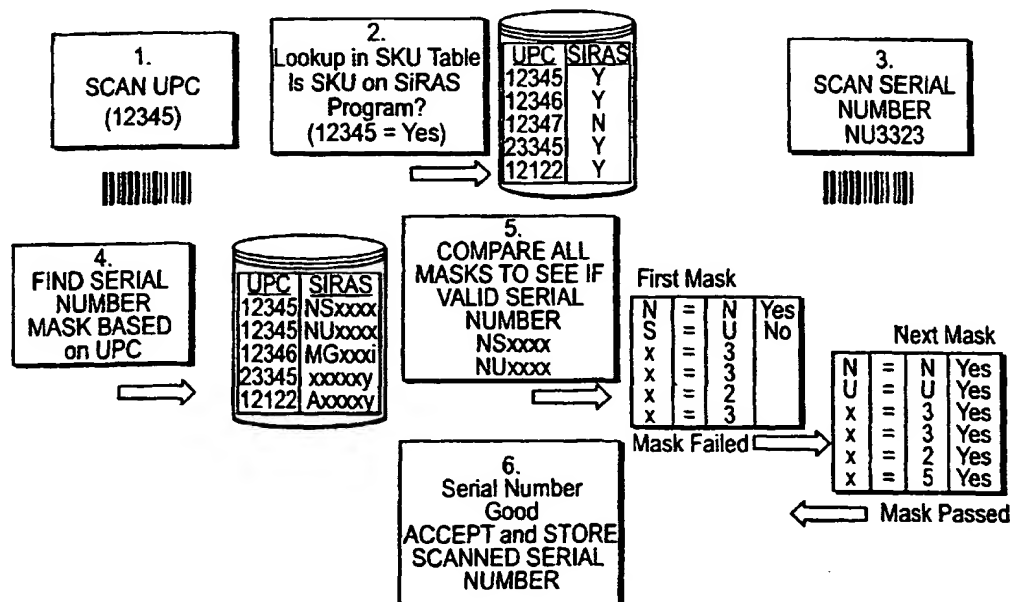
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/27817 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F 17/30**
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/US00/41057**
- (22) International Filing Date: **4 October 2000 (04.10.2000)**
- (25) Filing Language: **English**
- (26) Publication Language: **English**
- (30) Priority Data:
60/159,432 14 October 1999 (14.10.1999) US
60/198,655 20 April 2000 (20.04.2000) US
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **NINTENDO OF AMERICA, INC.** [US/US]; 4820 150th Avenue, N.E., Redmond, WA 98052 (US).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **KOON, David, G.** [US/US]; Nintendo of America, Inc., 4820 150th Avenue, N.E., Redmond, WA 98052 (US).
- (74) Agent: **KAGEN, Alan, M.**; Nixon & Vanderhye P.C., Suite 800, 1100 North Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22201-4714 (US).
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
— With international search report.

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **SERIAL NUMBER MASK AND CHECK DIGIT FOR ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEM (ERS)**



(57) Abstract: A method and system for efficiently handling the acquisition of serial number information from products at, for example, a point of sale system in a retail store or the like utilizes a serial number mask (4) to generically define attributes of a serial number format. The serial number mask characterizes the serial number format and includes at least a first character that describes variables of the serial number format. With this method and system, an electronic registration system can be used to reduce or prevent improper returns of consumer products.



— *Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments.*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/41057

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/30

US CL : 705/16, 20, 21

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 705/16, 20, 21

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A, P	US 6,018,719 A (ROGERS et al.) 25 JANUARY 2000, ALL	1-22
A	US 5,416,306 A (IMAHATA) 16 MAY 1995, ALL	1-22
A, P	US 6,016,480 A (HOUVENER et al.) 18 JANUARY 2000, ALL	1-22
A	US 5,602,377 A (BELLER et al.) 11 FEBRUARY 1997, ALL	1-22
A	US 5,256,863 A (FERGUSON et al.) 26 OCTOBER 1993, ALL	1-22



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*G* document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 JANUARY 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

26 FEB 2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

JAMES P. TRAMMELL

Telephone No. (703) 305-3900